

The Shoreham Country Club (SCC)



Celebrating 100 Years

1916 *** 2016

A BRIEF HISTORY

by

Mimi Oberdorf & Joe Falco

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1st Edition, July 2016

Cover Photo: 1918 Fourth of July celebration at the “Log Cabin”—1st Shoreham Country Club, In attendance were soldiers from nearby Camp Upton.

Acknowledgement: Many thanks to Village Historian Emeritus Peter Spier for maintaining a splendid, well indexed and annotated archive of old Village photos, documents and newspapers. Many thanks to the many Village residents who have contributed to the Village archive’s collection of Shoreham Items and predecessor newspapers. Thank you to Marcy Hutchinson for saving and preserving the SCC Minutes. Special thanks to Linda Garvin Kallenbach, Tom Adams and Dave Madigan for photos and information about “the old days.” We wish to acknowledge Kay Spier’s late father, Mervin Pallister, Village Historian until 1986, for writing his excellent history of Shoreham Village, which was a major source for this book. Thanks also to Kay Spier for publishing this work, which can be found on the Shoreham Village web site, www.shorehamvillage.org, Village History tab.

Disclaimer: We had a firm deadline and limited time to put this history together so were unable to seek verification or additional information from “old timers” with personal knowledge, records and artifacts relevant to SCC history. Therefore, we apologize for any inaccuracies or omissions. However, we had at our disposal the extensive Village archive and, wherever possible, we have based this history on source documents—contemporary minutes, newspapers, eyewitness histories and governmental records. We therefore believe this is a good history of the SCC.

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INTRODUCTION

The Shoreham Country Club—for decades, the very spirit of our community, and still a major force in the life of our little Village. On the 100th Anniversary of its founding. But how did we get here?

ORIGINS AND EARLY DAYS

In its early years, Shoreham was a quiet, sedate place of woodchoppers, farmers & fruit growers. In 1900, after Shoreham got rail service, developer James Warden opened the summer community and resort, Wardencllyffe. In summer, Wardencllyffe's inn and 10 cottages were populated by a sedate group of writers and academics seeking quiet and refuge among the trees, hills and sea breezes. Things changed after Warden's sudden death in 1906, with Herbert Hapgood and partners greatly expanding what became the old Village to about 60 summer houses and cottages, and attracting from greater New York and elsewhere a decidedly livelier crowd of successful business people, professionals and performing artists, seeking summer relaxation, but also sport, entertainment and an active social life. The change in atmosphere was bemoaned by early Shorehamite Channing Pollack, famous playwright and theatre critic, and holdover from the earlier, more sedate crowd:

One by one these disappeared [the earlier, more sedate crowd]; our village was incorporated and “put on the map” by the far more common type of suburbanite who prefers porch cocktail parties and dancing in a country club to looking at stars and sea. Quiet and solitude are the two blessings most difficult to attain in America, and particularly in the America that put aside making “the world safe for Democracy” to go in for whoopee in a big way¹

The new, gregarious crowd of Shorehamites would meet and socialize in the Shoreham Inn (1900-1929) on the corner of Woodville and Briarcliff. See photos below of the Inn's exterior shortly after it opened, and some interior shots of common spaces where Villagers would congregate.

¹ Pollack, Channing; *Harvest of My Years—An Autobiography*. Bobbs-Merrill Co. New York. 1943.



FRONT VIEW OF THE INN



A COSY CORNER IN THE PARLORS



A CORNER IN THE CAFÉ



CORNER OF OFFICE

But, after the old Village had been built out and incorporated in 1913, the 60 or so families that summered here sought to organize as their own social club.

And so, interested Shorehamites filed articles of incorporation with New York State and **the Shoreham Country Club, Inc., was officially born on July 21, 1916**, corresponding with the date New York State approved its incorporation.

Incorporation allowed the SCC to charge membership dues and raise money to purchase a clubhouse.

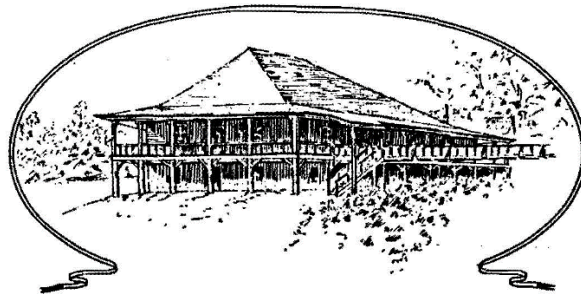
Shoreham's 1st clubhouse was the "Log Cabin" purchased from a Mr. Melville in 1916, and located in what is now the north end of the original parking lot (see cover photo of Sound-facing side of the Log Cabin).

After purchasing the clubhouse, the SCC immediately entered into an agreement with the Village, described in the August 31, 1916 minutes of the Board of Trustees "RESOLVED: That the offer of the Shoreham Country Club to the Village to permit it to use the building for Village purposes be accepted, and that in consideration thereof, and at the request of the Board of

Trustees, said building be declared a public building, exempt from taxation.” This arrangement was mutually beneficial—it relieved the SCC of the tax burden on its clubhouse while providing the Village with a meetinghouse.

The Villager crucial to striking this seminal SCC-Village shared building use agreement was New York attorney William J. Thompson, a founding father of both the Country Club, serving as its first President (1916-1920) and of the Village, serving as *its* 3rd “President” (the position was later called “mayor”) in 1916-1917, and then serving as Village Trustee (1917-1922). In an early Shoreham Scribe article, fellow founding Shorehamite Alfred Varian singled out Thompson as “one of the incorporators and the outstanding leading spirit in starting and maintaining the SCC.” Thompson is also credited with establishing our 4th of July traditions—the big parade, the ballgame and the athletic competition. Following his 1923 death, his street of summer residence, Campbell St., was renamed Thompson St. in his honor:

The 1921 SCC pamphlet, “Community Building at Shoreham” further describes the Log Cabin purchase and the arrangements with the Village that subsequently resulted in the 1921 construction of the Community Building by the Village that the SCC rented as its 2nd clubhouse:



Community Building at Shoreham



A Message from the Shoreham Country Club

THERE has been practically completed an attractive building on the shore front at Shoreham, immediately in front of the Log Cabin.

This building has an assembly hall 35' x 40', which will be made available for all proper purposes of the Community, There is a wide protected porch in the front, close to the beach, from which an unobstructed view of the Sound in all directions can be had.

The equity in this property, including the log cabin, was originally purchased in 1916 by the Shoreham Country Club, Inc. Everyone in the community at that time was invited to come in and

contribute to such purchase, and all who contributed \$100 to the funds of the Club became regular members of the club and received bonds--of the Club, which bonds were subsequently surrendered and cancelled. The underlying purpose in originally acquiring this property was to establish a community center and have a place for meetings and suitable entertainment, as well as non-sectarian religious services.

The War interrupted the program for improvements. but the log cabin was put into use as a canteen, for the Soldiers, and the women of this community, one and all, are deserving of great credit for their hard work in making the Shoreham canteen a bright spot in the lives of many a youth who subsequently gave his life for us in France. The operation of this canteen brought together all of the people of the community and did more to establish and cement a real community spirit than has anything since Shoreham was first started. It also further stimulated the desire of everyone to have established a general community center where all could informally meet, and enjoy themselves according to their inclinations.

And to insure the feeling that the community center would in fact be such, and to guard against the possibility of its being utilized by a few instead of by all, it was suggested that the property be taken over by the Village and that the Village erect a community or assembly hall. All of the members of the club generously offered to give the property to the Village for such purpose and a special election was held in the Village, and the Village was unanimously authorized to accept such gift.

In accordance with such authorization, the property has now been conveyed to the Village, and the Village has proceeded with the completion of the building. We feel confident everyone is going to derive much enjoyment from its possession. It will never become a source of annoyance to anyone, but will add much to the pleasure of residence in Shoreham.

It seems desirable to maintain the club organization and to attempt to arrange with the Village for a limited use of the property for entertainments which will be open to the people of the community, the club paying to the Village suitable compensation which will relieve the Village of all or much of the expense for upkeep.

It is desirable that a member of every household of the community become a member (regular or associate) of the club. It is proposed that membership in the club will extend the privilege of the club to all of the members of the household of each member.

The regular members of the Club those who have been registered owners of bonds of the club to the amount of \$100 or upwards or those who have paid or shall pay into the club an initiation fee of \$100. Associate members are those paying annual dues. The regular and associate members will all pay the same dues, which will be more or less nominal, because everyone in the community is desired as a member. Twenty persons have heretofore contributed \$100 each and have in addition contributed to the carrying charges of the property since 1916, and made other contributions toward furnishing the log cabin, etc.

As previously stated, the new building is almost completed. We know that many people in the community other than those who have already contributed, desire to feel that they have helped in

this undertaking, but have not heretofore contributed for one reason or another. The directors of the club have therefore thought that it would be desirable to ask all of those who wish to join in supporting this community enterprise to contribute to the extent of \$100 or more and become regular members of the club, by sending their checks to Randall D. Warden, Treasurer, No. 471 Ridge Street, Newark, N. J.

The funds which may be so raised are to be used toward improvements in the property and furnishings for the buildings. It is therefore hoped, and we believe that you will now contribute \$100 to this end. It will be money well spent, for it will permit the fixing up of the property to a greater extent and hence' increase the pleasure that one and all will derive from it. It was upon a similar basis that we succeeded in getting good roads in Shoreham. The money that was so privately contributed for roads has been well repaid: The value of property has been greatly increased thereby and the place has become more livable. Money spent now for the enhancement of our community center will be of equal benefit.

At the present time, the buildings need screening; a cement floor is desirable in the basement of the new building suitable chairs are needed for the veranda; also electric wiring and fixtures throughout; other furnishings are also desirable; the grounds about should be fixed, and certain repairs and improvements made in the log cabin. One of the members has in addition to his \$100 contribution, given a fine phonograph and cabinet with many records. Another has promised a billiard table, another a shuffle board. A good floor in the basement is essential before these can be installed. A piano also would be very acceptable.

It is desired that a member from every household in the community become a member of the club. Annual dues of all members will be only \$15, associate members not paying any initiation fee. You should become a regular member and contribute \$100 immediately, so that the buildings and grounds may be put in shape before the opening of the season. The money raised in dues will be used to defray a part of the upkeep of the buildings as may be arranged and to provide suitable entertainment. *An application for membership is enclosed herewith. It will be appreciated if you will send this in at once, together with your check for dues for 1921.*

SHOREHAM LIBRARY

A library and reading room under the management of Mr. Edward F. Stevens [Head of Pratt Institute Library] has been started. If you have any books that you wish to contribute, will you kindly send them to him at Shoreham, Long Island.

LET US ALL GET TOGETHER

In passing, let us state that we hope everyone in our community will get together and join hands and make Shoreham more than a place to be proud of; a place where we and our families can obtain real pleasure from living and help all in the community to obtain such pleasure. In every sense, let us make Shoreham a democratic sociable community, where the interests and pleasures of one become the interests and pleasures of all. If everyone tries we cannot fail, and will have accomplished an ideal. To do this we must all make some sacrifices, but they will be far outweighed by our reward. Let us all join hands and get together.

Circa 1921 Photo of newly completed Community Building ("Clubhouse") showing bridge over west gulley (now largely filled in) to the old Village. Roof of the original Log Cabin is visible just to the south in what is now the parking lot.



In 1921, the SCC and Village leaders succeeded in obtaining passage by the New York State legislature a Law of the State of New York which allowed for the use of the Shoreham Village Hall by the SCC when not needed for official Village business:

Chap. 67.

AN ACT giving power to the trustees of the village of Shoreham, Suffolk county, New York, to lease a portion of the buildings on the shore front in such village to the Shoreham Country Club, Incorporated, for a club house.

Became a law March 9, 1921, with the approval of the Governor. Passed, three-fifths being present.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The trustees of the village of Shoreham, Suffolk county, New York, are hereby authorized and empowered to lease to the Shoreham Country Club, Incorporated, such portion of its buildings located on the shore front in such village as may

not be required at all times for village purposes, for use as a club house upon such terms, conditions or restrictions as they may determine.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

The Village then granted the SCC an exclusive, multi-year lease for use of the building, grounds and beach. This lease, with subsequent modifications, was periodically renewed and remained in force until the Community Building ("Clubhouse") was destroyed by fire in 1987.

Throughout that time and right up to the present, the SCC has retained ownership of the lot just south of the clubhouse, which became the SCC's parking lot, now leased by the Village.

Kay Spier's father, Mervin Pallister provides additional detail about the founding and early days of the SCC, and the 1921 construction of the Community Building, in his excellent 1976 Village History book²:

Just about the time the Village was getting organized, a group of public-minded summer residents founded the Shoreham Country Club. The first clubhouse was the old but solid Log Cabin which stood just South Of the present clubhouse; in fact, it would nearly touch the southwest corner of the present building had it not been taken down at a later date. Little thought was given to youth activities at the outset; the Log Cabin was a haven of refuge for the older residents. There was a gully to the east of it through which the north end of Woodville Road ran down to the beach. To its west was a second gully through which rainwater run-off found its way down to the shore; our present storm drain passes down its former course. Both of these gullies were spanned by footbridges. In 1916 the Log Cabin was made available to the Village for use as a hall, to be used jointly with the Club. That arrangement marked the first link of a long chain which would be forged in future years. In the winter of 1918-1919 there occurred an event which led to the construction of the first portion of the Village Hall. For many years a feature of the old Shoreham Inn (which was at the site of today's basketball court) was its related "bathing pavilion" which stood under the edge of the bluff at the north end of what is now the Village parking lot. The pavilion was supported on piles. On its lower level there were dressing rooms, lockers and places for the storage of beach gear; the upper deck was roofed over but open to the breezes on all four sides. It was demolished by a severe storm during that winter. The prime actor in its loss was the battering-ram effect of heavy timbers awash in the flood tides and raging seas which scoured the beaches and eroded the bluffs. During this century our bluff line has receded at least twenty five feet...

The other significant event of 1918-1919 was the growing realization that the Log Cabin had outlived its usefulness and had become too small to adequately fill the requirements of either the Village or the Club, both of which were assuming increasingly important roles in the affairs of the residents. In the summer of 1919, preliminary arrangements were worked out for the transfer of the Club property to the Village and the construction of a new "pavilion" to fill the needs of both, with an equitable sharing of costs. Arrangements were finalized in 1920, and the new building went up in 1920-1921. The structure then erected - it will hereafter, for convenience, be designated the "Club" to distinguish it from other Village-owned buildings - was composed of the central portion of the building which stands today. It had screened porches along its west and north sides. The footbridge to Beach Lane was elevated to the level of the present floor, and the old footbridge to the bluff on the east was demolished. The old Log Cabin had a porch along its north side; a flying bridge was built to connect the west end of that porch with the west porch of the new "pavilion".

² Pallister, Mervin G.. (Village Historian, 1972-1986). A History of The Incorporated Village of Shoreham. July 4, 1976. Copyright © 1995 Kathryn M. Pallister

Over the ensuing years, many changes have been made: the west and north porches have been brought indoors, a new sundeck has been added and the stage area has been created. The old flying bridge and the footbridge have disappeared as has the old Log Cabin. The Club property is noteworthy as the first real estate acquired by the Village. The present dimensions of the Club were achieved in 1934- 1935.

Evelyn Miles, in 1953³, recounted summers in early Shoreham and the early days of the SCC, which she had witnessed and lived as a child those many years earlier:

"WHEN WE WERE VERY YOUNG"

By Evelyn Q. Miles

Years and years ago when we were very young and growing up in Shoreham things were about the same as they are now - but different. We had the beach and a Clubhouse - but then the Club was known as the Log Cabin and consisted of only the part which is now the place where we dance. It was unpainted and unfinished on the inside. It was connected by a boardwalk to another Log Cabin where Frank Gaias held forth and served us ice cream and other beverages - some stronger. Incidentally, at that time the dues to the Club were \$10.00 for the season.

We had large dinners served in the basement of the Club by Tommy Futuros. Then there was the Inn, which was run by a man named Flavell. The dinners he served were noted all over the Eastern part of the Island. I remember that they always started with a fine soup and ended with a large bowl of nuts, figs and raisins. We almost always ate our Sunday dinners there. Even in those days they were \$3.50 each, which was then considered a terrific price, but well worth it, everyone said.

There was a Boarding House run by Fanny Warden where you could stay for \$27.50 a week for room and board. The food was good and very ample. The House was usually full of people who stayed at least a month at a time and sometimes all summer. We had fun as there was always a group of young people staying there. You could afford it at \$7.50 for the week-end,

We had a very fine raft which we made ourselves - double-sided so that when the spirit moved us we could turn it over and use the other side. Instead of the Dyer Dhows we had sailing dories which could stay afloat in the strongest breeze. Instead of rowboats we had canoes on the beach, and on the Fourth of July we had canoe tilting contests.

^{3 3} Shoreham Item. August 21, 1953 p. 1.

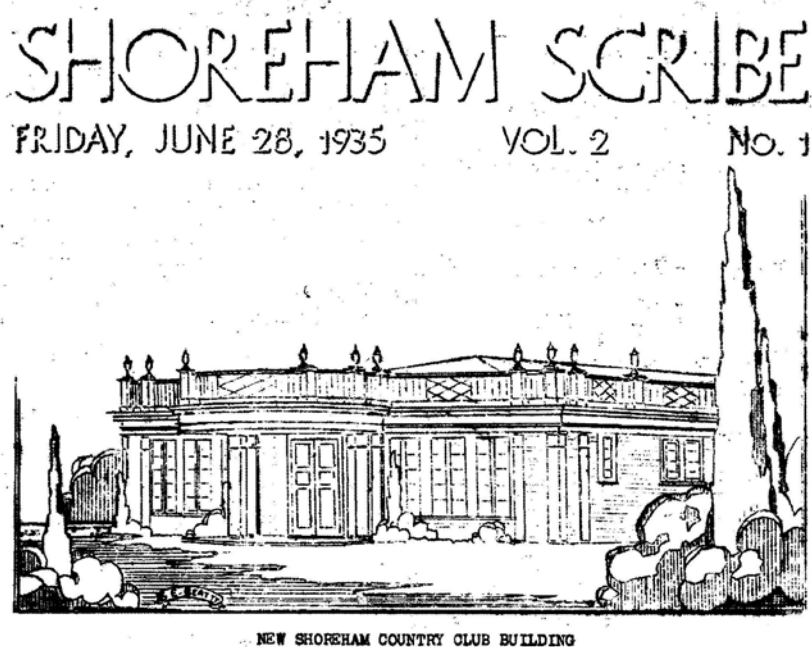
On the bluff to the East of the Clubhouse there was a bathing pavilion with bath houses and a floor above that could be used for dancing. This slid down the bluff one winter many years ago.

Shoreham Village looked about the same, but not as overgrown~ Life was about the same - our parents had their parties very much as we do now and the same family spirit prevailed then as it does now and hope it always shall in Shoreham.

In order to provide parking, the Log Cabin was demolished in the 1920's and the Randall Warden Cottage (now the Sandra & Charlie Bowman residence) was moved south to its current location on Woodville Rd.

1930's RENOVATION AND EXPANSION OF COMMUNITY BUILDING

The 1921 Community Building ("clubhouse") had been a relatively simple beach pavilion with a dance floor and porches, until its renovation and expansion under the direction of architect and resident/community leader George E. Beatty, Sr. The original porches were enclosed and a new porch built on the Sound-facing side. The structure was expanded southward into the parking lot to create a new entranceway, kitchen, lounge area and restrooms. An imposing white façade was added with formal architectural elements that made the building vaguely resemble, in miniature, the White House or other grand public buildings.



And, significant for the arts, a stage was punched out on the east side of the building, and equipped with a donated piano.

"The cover picture is the architect's sketch of the Shoreham Country Club House which since last year, has practically been more than doubled in floor area. The new south wing, designed by George Edward Beatty, architect, makes a beautiful entrance and lounge.



“Sincerest thanks are due to those public spirited citizens who made this possible. They show the same broadness of vision that characterized the founders of the village. The women have taken a most active interest in plans for beautifying the inside of the club and landscaping the grounds. Four additional tennis courts are now being laid out and will be completed soon.⁴”

1920s – 1960s: THE HEART AND SOUL OF THE VILLAGE

From its founding through the decades after World War II, the Village was a rather isolated summer community, with limited social or recreational opportunities beyond its confines. During this time, the Club was the dominant social and cultural organization of the Village, and most Villagers belonged to the Club. Residents of the prosperous Shoreham Estates section of mansions on large lots between Briarcliff and Woodville Roads were also welcome to join the Club and were active in Shoreham society, even though this section was not incorporated into the Village until 1951.

Photo: “Marines and Fairies” from one of Ms. Jantzer’s children’s recitals during World War II.



PARTIES, FUN, ACTIVITIES AND TRADITIONS ESTABLISHED

At its core, the Club’s main mission was to bring fun and joy to the Village, and to be the focus of social activities.

Nowadays, the Club sponsors dinner-dances, but in years past, dinner parties and/or cocktail parties at private residences would precede Club dances held throughout the summer. They would start at 9:00 or 9:30 and run past 1 AM and well into the wee hours of the morning. Many featured Wes Oliver’s famous Big Band, the Vikings with Bob Oliver on sax or clarinet.


⁴ Shoreham Scribe. June 28, 1935

Other activities included fairs, jubilees and the famous “Shoreham Follies” which ran discontinuously from the 1920s to the 1970s:

Port Jefferson Club

PORT JEFFERSON STATION, L. I., N. Y., THURSDAY, AUG. 1, 1929

PARTICIPANTS IN SHOREHAM FOLLIES OF 1929



LOCAL AND

JIRIK COLLIER SAYS HE

Gossip in Port Jefferson, N. Y., says that Joe Jirik, the owner of the Smithtown, by bootlegging which we hear four different two cars saw his motorcycle him and knock him to death. we called the Smithtown as that Joe was in for one so as run.

Muriel Frie
Grace Walsh
Barbara Eddy
Lucy Smythe
Peggy Jaeger
Alice Gregg
Hattie
Harriet MacKinnon
Natalie Finn
Eugenie Finn
Douglas Smith
Lorraine Nye
Mary Cran
Betty Edwards
Kathryn Kohler

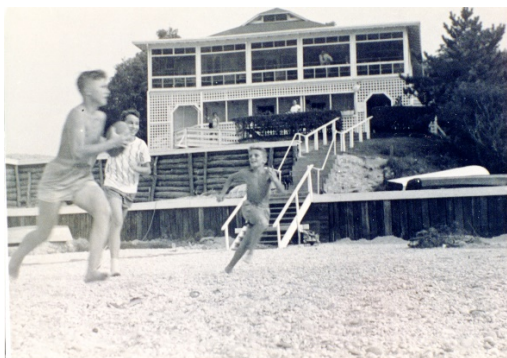


The first Sunday Song Service of the season will be held at the club, Sunday, July 5th., beginning promptly at 8:00. It will be conducted by Mr. A. W. Barnhart. Mrs. G. Sarkany will play the piano.

On Sunday nights, there was an ecumenical Song Service, where Villagers gathered together to sing religious tunes and end the weekend on a joyous and uplifting note. (Notice on left is from a 1942 Shoreham Item).

The Club also sponsored youth activities— arts and crafts, overnight hikes, and swimming and tennis lessons.

In the days of the old clubhouse, a Club Steward— generally a young man on vacation from college and thoroughly-vetted by the Club leadership—was appointed for the summer, resided in the basement of the clubhouse, and had overall responsibility for the operation of the clubhouse and beach, as well as overseeing youth activities. The basement of the Club also had a “Shrimp Room” where the Village’s youth could congregate and play games or enjoy soft drinks from the vending machine.



Jerry Hunsicker, Tom Mullry and Tom Adams



Carolyn Heeg, Tom Adams, Celie Queenan, Chris Beatty, John Bates and Warren Heeg



Barbara George Virginia Finn

From the 1920's until the 1970s Ms. Evelyn Jantzer—an institution unto herself-- provided children with instruction in dance, culminating towards the end of each summer in grand, costumed dance recitals and shows for the proud parents. Photo circa 1950—recital by Barbara George (Connolly) and Virginia Finn.



TENNIS AND OTHER SPORT

Sport was always a key pillar of the SCC—tennis ladders/tournaments, golf outings and road rallies, which have continued into modern times (Left: road rally poster)

The SCC had run the Village's tennis program prior to the Village assuming this role in more recent years, -- the tennis ladder, tournament, and youth tennis lessons. The SCC and Wading River tennis clubs co-sponsored the annual

Labor Day Sunday competition between the communities and the post-competition awards ceremony and reception.



1932 Photo on left is of the Old Shoreham Country Club Courts

“In the early days, a separate tennis membership fee was levied upon club members wishing to use the courts, in order to help defray maintenance costs, then paid by the SCC, which owned the courts. “The Club had one court, and later two, which were located where the Club parking lot is today. When the Clubhouse was enlarged in 1934-35~ those two courts were built at

the southeast corner of Briarcliff and Woodville roads on land taken under long term lease from the Suffolk County Land Company. The two upper-level courts in the same complex are of later vintage.”⁵

SUBSIDIARY CLUBS

At least 3 subsidiary clubs were chartered under the auspices of the SCC, including the Shoreham Boat Club, the Shoreham Garden Club and the Shoreham Rod and Gun Club.

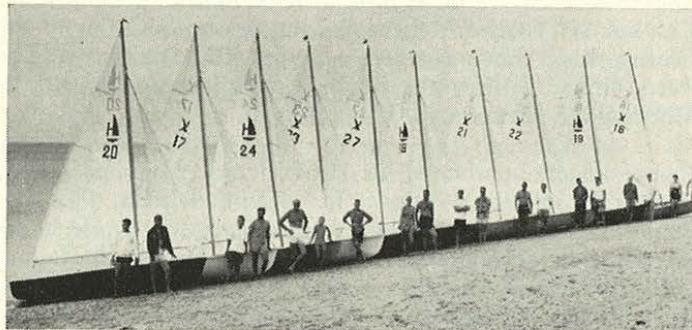


THE SHOREHAM BOAT CLUB

Noted yachtsman Herbert Stone, editor of Yachting magazine from 1908 until 1952, summered in a cottage on Overhill Rd., now owned by Dan Brickley and Eric Mancuso. Stone was also a founding member of the Shoreham Boat Club. In 1910, he designed the Shoreham Burgee, which has become a symbol of both the

⁵ Ibid. Mervin Pallister history. 1976.

SCC and the Village itself⁶ Find here an apt description of the Shoreham Boat Club from the February 1960 edition of Yachting magazine:



The Shoreham Boat Club fleet of Terns ready for launching

YACHT CLUB WITH NO HARBOR

► A club that has to do its sailing the hard way, but prospers just the same, thanks to the efforts of its enthusiastic members, is the Shoreham Boat Club, on Long Island's north shore eight miles east of Port Jefferson, the nearest harbor.

Founded in 1911 by members of the Shoreham Country Club, only within the last year has the Boat Club had a real organization with constitution, by-laws and officers of its own. The club's first fleet (Herbert L. Stone, late publisher of YACHTING, was a founding member) consisted of a number of sailing dories which were precariously moored off the open beach below 75-foot bluffs wide open to northerly winds. This proved something less than practical. They had to have a fleet that could be hauled out on shore.

In 1947-8 the club members bought ten 9' Dyer Dhows. Last year it was decided to add some boats that were larger and slooprigged, but still light enough to be launched from the beach easily by four people, and carried up above possible high water level when not in use. They selected a 14' plastic sloop called the Flying Tern. The present Shoreham BC fleet includes 11 Terns, eight Dyer Dhows, a dozen out-board boats, three Sailfish, and the flagship, Comm. John R. Bates' Hinckley 21 which is kept at Port Jefferson.

One of last year's club projects was building a 200-foot narrow gauge railway to haul the boats from the water to safe storage. Plans for 1960's sailing season include participation in some race weeks at other clubs, an invitation regatta off the Shoreham shore for small boats, dinghy inter-club competition with the Port Jefferson YC, a junior instruction program and local championship race schedules.

An open beach below 75-foot bluffs is Shoreham's "harbor"



YACHTING

⁶ Original Shoreham yacht club burgee. Mary Ann Oberdorf collection.

The Shoreham Boat Club remained active into the 1970s, sponsoring Sunday afternoon sailing races with results reported in the Shoreham Item.

Unfortunately, the Shoreham Boat Club no longer exists as an organized club, but the sailing tradition remains strong in Shoreham, including the holding of a large Centennial regatta in conjunction with the 2013 Family Beach Party. (Photo: Laura Baisch)



SHOREHAM GARDEN CLUB

Founded in 1929, the Shoreham Garden Club remains active to this day, having recently celebrated its 85th anniversary. Originally a traditional Garden Club, chartered with the New York Federation of Garden Clubs, it featured traditional garden club activities, such as juried flower shows. The Garden Club featured a junior division with workshops for young gardeners – girls and boys-- to learn about gardening and arrangements, with junior competitions and prizes during the flower shows. These activities were, no doubt, responsible for many young people getting interested in horticulture, gardening and the environment.



Garden club beautifying Shoreham for 60 years

BY CATHY SILVERSTEIN

Began in those lazy lemonade summers before television, with the aim of beautifying the turn-of-the-century seasonal village, the Shoreham Garden Club has been planting flowers and shrubs in local yards for 60 years. The train still came all the way out to Shoreham then, and during the week, when the men were in the city earning a living, the ladies of the village concentrated on making Shoreham a peaceful haven to which their husbands could return.

Nowadays, about 80 members from the village, Rocky Point, Ridge, and Wading River meet nine times a year to share planting secrets and visit beautiful gardens. But the flowering results from the early years still enliven the gardens of the area. And the club's history over six decades parallels the development along the north shore of Long Island and reflects contemporary worldwide events.

The founders often met at the Shoreham Country Club, since all the summer residents were also members there, and with careful planning they were able to make arrangements to purchase top quality plantings for wholesale prices. Everyone in the village contributed, buying several flowering trees and shrubs for their own private homes and for the parks and country club. Many of the dogwoods and towering rhododendrons seen today in Shoreham Village were established through the early work of the garden club.

In the winter, since most of the members were from New York City, the board of directors would meet at one of the member's homes to plan the next season's events, including the annual luncheon in March, which was always followed by attending the New York Spring Flower

In 1939, they took on the Long Island Rail Road, 'reporting the disreputable condition of the Shoreham Station and grounds...calling their attention...to the bottles and beer cans left there, the broken windows in the outhouse which is upset....'

Show.

According to the earliest available minutes from the meetings, written by secretary Cornelia Elliott, the spring luncheon of 1935 took place in the Rainbow Room of Rockefeller Center. Besides the annual card party and flower show, the members planned a lawn garden party at a Mrs. Sackett's house with Arthur Murray dancers, a fashion show of period gowns owned by club members, refreshments served on shaded tables by waiters, even a fortune teller. In mid-August, the club had over \$500 in its treasury.

By the late 30s, the club had approximately 50 members. Not only did it maintain the grounds at the Shoreham Country Club, but it set about correcting unsightliness wherever it occurred. For example, members contacted the Brookhaven Highway Department for permission to beautify the triangle at North Country Road.

They also wrote to the Mayor of Shoreham Village "calling his attention to the condition of the garbage wagon. Aside from the stench, the tarpaulin, which was presented to the village, is not used and the backdrop of the wagon often left down when driving, causing debris to

be strewn over the roads."

In 1939, they took on the Long Island Rail Road, "reporting the disreputable condition of the Shoreham Station and grounds...calling their attention to the objectionable all night parties being held at the station and disturbing the peace, to the bottles and beer cans left there, the broken windows in the outhouse which is upset, and the uncut grass."

By 1940, the garden club was aware of its position in a world far larger than Shoreham. Members voted on a resolution "for the canning and conserving of all fruits and vegetables in the face of the coming shortage of foods on account of the War in Europe." That summer they gave the Red Cross the \$87.94 raised at the neighborhood flower show.

At the annual election and business meeting in September 1942, members unanimously agreed to purchase a Victory B Bond. It was also decided to discontinue activities "for the duration of the Second World War."

By the late 1940s, the club was still in a state of reorganization, but that did not interfere with the 1948 spring luncheon at the Lexington Hotel or the plans for that year's fund-raising garden party, which

included a mother and child fashion show, mint julep booth, ice cream booth, and roulette and "other games of chance."

Members voted in 1948 to erect a sign at the entrance to Shoreham Village with a brief history and incorporation date. They also were in touch with Suffolk County Mosquito Control in Yaphank to urge them to keep their promise to spray Shoreham. Plans for the 1949 season included landscaping around the newly installed village tennis courts.

When former garden club president Augustine Allen moved to Shoreham in the early 1950s, there were only 12 homes open year round. Allen recalls, "In those days when you moved in, two ladies with their white gloves and all would come to call to invite you to a tea. It was a much smaller community and a more formal way of life..."

The white gloves are gone, and the garden club has become more suburbanly informal, but its members continue to plant and to serve communities.

Officers chosen

At its recent meeting closing out its sixtieth year of existence, the Shoreham Garden Club held a fund-raising auction and installed officers for 1990.

In the traditional Ceremony of the Rose, parliamentarian Agnes Allen installed Cathy Silverstein for a two-year term as president. Other officers will be Sandra Bowman, first vice president; Penny Corouzzi, secretary; and Diane Bartel-Bouchier, treasurer.

Anyone in the community can become a club member. Dues are \$15.

1989 Village Beacon article above by former Garden Club President and Village resident Cathy Silverstein describes the Garden Club's major role in the beautification of the Village: When Shoreham Village was established, its hills were relatively barren, with a poor, sandy soil. The Garden Club was very much responsible for encouraging and guiding residents and the Village itself towards amending the soil and planting the beautiful variety of flowering plants and majestic trees around the Village. The Garden Club assumed responsibility for beautifying many public spaces around the Village, including the Oval, the triangle of land at 25A (before the bypass) and encouraging the trimming of vegetation off the Stone Trestle.

Beginning in the 1970's, the Garden Club became very involved in environmental issues, and in sensitizing Villagers to the fragility of our natural environment and how we might protect it.

The Garden Club fell on challenging times in the 1980s-1990s with a decline in membership. The Garden Club responded by opening up membership to residents in surrounding communities, and the Garden Club rebounded and is now an active, robust organization featuring many members of both genders!



ROD AND GUN CLUB

Least known of the clubs, the Rod and Gun Club nevertheless was active into the 1970s, its most visible (and audible) activity being winter skeet shooting on the beach, with clay pigeons launched from the old concrete bunker where the beach ramp now lies. Photo is of Skeeter Skeet shooting, courtesy Tom Adams.

SCC IN WARTIME

The Club had an active role in both World Wars. The old Log Cabin served as a canteen for soldiers billeted at nearby Camp Upton (See cover photo of Camp Upton Soldiers attending the Village's 1918 Fourth of July Celebration.) Soldiers serving beach patrol and coastal defense were quartered and fed in the clubhouse during World War II: "Mrs. Hapgood is taking charge of the canteen for the soldiers quartered the club and will welcome the contributions of books and magazines. Anyone wishing to help with the coffee and sandwiches which the canteen will provide every night should get in touch with her."⁷

DEALING WITH AN EXPLOSION (of population)

After a lull of development during the Great Depression and World War II that represented a quiet time in the Village, the Village re-awoke in the 1950's and more than doubled in area with the annexation of the Estates Section in 1951 and what would become the "Slopes/Circle Drive" neighborhood in 1957. Soon thereafter, these lands were developed, resulting in an abrupt doubling of the Village population between 1965 and 1974, with 74 new houses constructed and occupied, and with the Village transformed from a summer to a year-round community.⁸

This sudden growth put a tremendous strain on both the Club and the Village. The Village had anticipated this growth and purchased the beach, field and some woodlands east of the existing clubhouse and parking lot in order to expand the beach and parking, and to make room for new recreational facilities for Village residents. Prior to this sudden influx of new residents, most Villagers belonged to the SCC, but by its end, roughly half did not. There existed through much of the 1970's, an awkward state of separation in which residents who chose not to join the SCC were assigned their own parking lot, stairs and beach just to the east of the facilities rented by the SCC from the Village for use by SCC members.

⁷ Shoreham Item. Vol. XI no. 2. July 3, 1942.

⁸ Village of Shoreham Comprehensive Plan. October 2015.

This awkwardness was most acutely felt by the Village's youth, where one young person's family might belong to the SCC, while his or her friend's might not, and that friend might not feel warmly welcome by all SCC'ers on the beach or in the Shrimps' room in the Club basement.

An amicable resolution of this situation began in the 1980's, during which time the Village gradually took over control of the beach (including its maintenance) and the youth programs (including employment of its youth counselors), making the entire beach and the youth programs open to SCC members and non-SCC residents alike.

RISING UP AGAIN FROM THE FROM THE ASHES



A November 1987 letter from SCC President Haskell ("Skelly") Frei to SCC members:

Dear Friends,

We all regret our recent loss on Monday morning, October 12, 1987. The Shoreham Country Club burned up or down and was razed later in the week. We are left with the memories of the original club which was donated to the Village, along with the beach by a vote of the governing members. Those memories may dim over the years but "the Club" will never truly be forgotten. The trophies can be replaced with new ones. The irreplaceable pictures of sailing boats, and tennis teams past will suddenly appear from someone who had duplicates. The tables, dinnerware and machines can be replaced... and the building. At a recent Board of Directors meeting Mayor Joseph Ahata informed us of the tentative Village plans for building a new Village Hall. The scheduling of events will be an informational meeting, a floating bond issue, a contractor bid, and an architect, with possible ground breaking in May. All of these events are out of the "club" hands. We may appear at Village meetings and have same input as concerned taxpayers, but as to the Village Hall, that will be left, as always, to our elected Village officers and our Villager's vote.

So what of the Shoreham Country Club plans? The Board of Directors was emphatic in its determination to keep the season alive. There will be a Family Beach Party. There will be the

Clambake. We can have sneaker dinner-dance on the upper tennis courts or in our parking lot or even a square dance on the ballfield. All under a big tent, if need be. We can rent tables and chairs and music, but we cannot rent the members' enthusiasm. We need the camaraderie of all the membership to get us through this summer without the Village Hall.

There will be other Board of Directors' meetings to determine our direction, our dues, etc. but for a start Ed and Judy Putzer have offered their house for an SCC cocktail party Nov.28th and the Board of Directors says, "On Us."

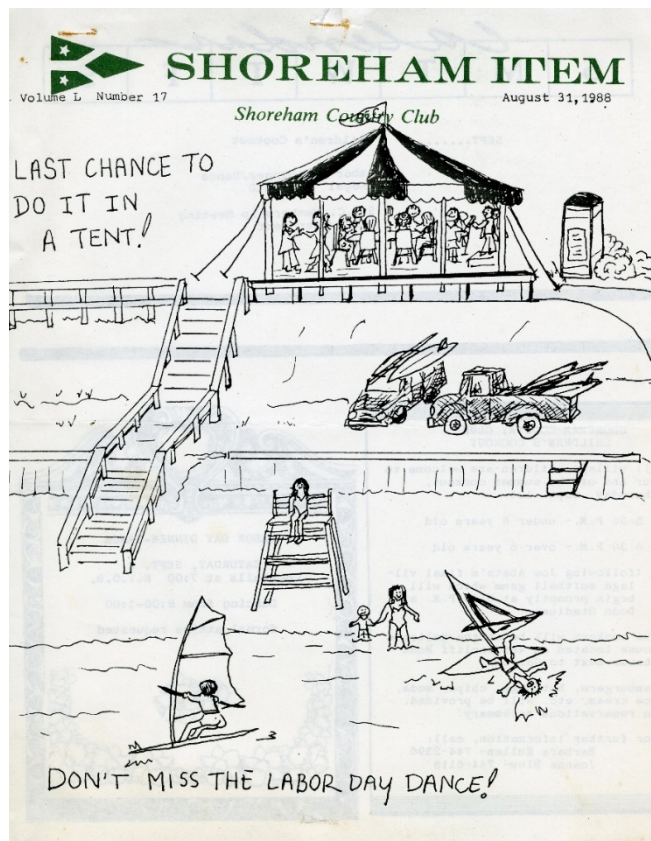
Let's hear your thoughts let you hear ours...let's share together and stay together until we have a new Village roof over our heads,

See you at the party

Best wishes,

H. Frei, President

P.S.; Thanks to all the people who volunteered for the building and grounds committee this year.



The tragic destruction of the original Community Hall ("Club House") by fire in the wee hours of October 12, 1987 voided the SCC's lease with the Village for its use of the building. The SCC bravely carried on, holding parties and dances in a tent in its parking lot (This Shoreham Item Cover advertises the 1988 Labor Day Dance held under the big tent in the parking lot⁹), while the Village decided whether the Community Building should be rebuilt.

Delicate negotiations ensued and, although the SCC lost its exclusive rental arrangement with the Village, it retained the right to rent the new Village Hall—opened in 1990-- for its functions, and was also allotted storage space in the basement for its equipment and decorations. For its part, the Village negotiated a 22 year "cost-plus"

⁹ Artist: Helga (Jane) Jehle—daughter of Helga & Jim Jehle.

lease, paying rent to the SCC for Village use of the SCC's parking lot (recently renewed.) And so the SCC ultimately persevered and entered a new era in its history, surviving the great loss of its clubhouse and thriving again as it entered the new millennium and now as it enters its 2nd Century.

AN IMPORTANT WORD ABOUT WOMEN'S ROLE IN THE SCC

Although gender-neutral language was not introduced into the SCC Constitution and by-laws until the late 1980s, giving female governing members equal, independent voting privileges with their spouses, women have occupied leadership roles in the SCC from its early days, as committee chairs, officers and directors. In 1934-35, Florence Finn served as the SCC's 1st female President¹⁰. In 1936, as documented in the earliest SCC minutes we could locate, Cornelia VanArnum served as SCC Vice President while Ivy Lee Calendar, Mary Bailey, and Eugenie Finn were all on the Board of Directors in the years 1936-37. In more recent times, three out of six of the last SCC Presidents have been women, and so we now salute our current President, Liz Larson, whose remarks follow at the end of this text. (See a list of SCC Presidents on the last page.)

A SOCIAL CLUB BUT ALSO A PUBLIC SERVANT AND GOOD NEIGHBOR-- LOOKING FORWARD TO A BRIGHT 2ND CENTURY

The SCC was established in 1916 as a non-profit corporation. In addition to providing social opportunities and entertainment to its members, the SCC, as it enters its promise-filled 2nd Century, also extends hospitality and good cheer to all Village residents, opening up a number of social events to the Village public, such as TGIF's and children's holiday parties, and providing food and refreshment to all residents at Village Hall Open Houses. During the 2013 Village Centennial, the SCC sponsored or co-sponsored many events open to all residents. The SCC

will always have a positive role in the life of the Village promoting camaraderie and good cheer!!!



Photo: SCC Board of Directors and Officers on July 4, 2013, celebrating the Village's Centennial, in which the SCC had a major role. Then-President Tom Spier is on the lower left. Current President, Liz Larson, is in the 2nd row above Judy Baker's red hat.

¹⁰ Source: SCC Presidents' Plaque displayed at Shoreham Village Hall

2016 Centennial Message from SCC President Liz Larson

Throughout its 100 years of existence, the Shoreham Country Club has been a place for families to come together to socialize and enjoy our beautiful Village.

As we looked back at our history while preparing for the Centennial, we saw that many of the Club's traditions have endured throughout the years. We continue to hold many of the same events such as the popular dinner dances, clambakes, and beach parties. Generations of families have grown up at the Club and we now have many families with at least three generations of current members and some with as many as five.

The Club has thrived because of the commitment and hard work of its members. Throughout the years members have organized, cooked, decorated, created, dressed up, dressed down, danced, sang, volunteered, and contributed their talents while creating strong friendships and lasting memories.

We have seen many changes in the world over the past 100 years. Times have changed and the Club has changed with the times. However, what remains constant is the continued loyalty of our dedicated members. As we look to our next 100 years, if our past reflects our future one can be sure that the Club will continue to flourish with the same strength that we have witnessed over our past 100 years.

Thank you to everyone who has dedicated their time and resources to make this year and every year so special for our Club and our membership.

Happy Centennial Shoreham Country Club – I hope everyone enjoys the celebrations this summer.

Elizabeth Larson Gursky

SHOREHAM COUNTRY CLUB PRESIDENTS

SHOREHAM COUNTRY CLUB FOUNDED IN 1916

Year	President	Year	President
1916 - 1921	William J. Thompson	1981 - 1983	Gerald LaMantia
1922 - 1923	Elmer W. Oliver	1983 - 1984	Gilbert Tastrom
1923 - 1924	Dudley R. Yard	1984 - 1986	Randy Goat
1924 - 1925	Randall Warden	1986 - 1991	Haskell Frei
1925 - 1926	John R. Brandon	1991 - 1993	David Madigan
1926 - 1927	Frederick O. Zenke	1993 - 1995	John W. Weiss
1927 - 1928	Dudley R. Yard	1995 - 1997	Roger Pijacki
1928 - 1929	DeWitt Bailey	1997 - 2001	William Hutchinson
1929 - 1934	Harry F. Hughes	2001 - 2003	Nancy Knapp
1934 - 1935	Florence Finn	2003 - 2005	Hal Anastasia
1935 - 1936	Frederick W. Finn	2005 - 2007	Everet Melius
1936 - 1939	John H. Haslett	2007 - 2010	Rosemary Connell
1939 - 1941	Donald MacKinnon	2010 - 2013	Tom Spier
1941 - 1943	Albert W. Barnhart	2013 - 2016	Liz Larson Gursky
1943 - 1945	Mervin G. Pallister		
1945 - 1947	John R. Bates		
1947 - 1948	John Q. Hunsicker III		
1949 - 1950	Gilbert Frei		
1951 - 1953	George E. Beatty		
1954 - 1955	Edwin Barnhart		
1955 - 1956	Reginald Queenan M.D.		
1956 - 1957	Robert R. Oliver		
1957 - 1958	Ernest T. Siegel		
1958 - 1959	John P. McCormick		
1959 - 1960	Niel C. Fisk		
1960 - 1961	Robert R. Oliver		
1961 - 1962	Jack Bayliss		
1962 - 1964	Herbert Tastrom		
1964 - 1966	Henry J. Laurencot Jr.		
1966 - 1967	William Garvin, M.D.		
1967 - 1968	Francis J. Conolly		
1968 - 1969	A. Anthony Pisacano		
1969 - 1971	John Bates		
1971 - 1972	James J. Jehle		
1972 - 1974	Thomas J. Adams, Jr.		
1974 - 1976	Peter E. Spier		
1977 - 1978	Haskell Frei		
1978 - 1981	Joseph J. Abata		